

## JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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KYODAN MODERATOR ASKS OKINAWA REVERSION

On November 11, celebrated in Canada and the United States as Armistice Day or, more recently, Veterans Day, United Church of Christ in Japan Moderator Kiyoshi Ii, in a letter addressed to United States President Richard A. Nixon, called upon the United States government "to make all possible speed in carrying into effect the prompt, unconditional return of the entire Okinawan island group, free of nuclear weapons."

The letter, copies of which were distributed to leading United States and Japanese newspapers, expressed concern over the tendency in recent discussions in the Congress to treat Okinawa in terms of its strategic military importance and its usefulness as a bargaining point in securing more favorable terms for textile trade between Japan and United States rather than recognizing as of primary importance the 100 million Okinawans who "have for over 20 years been cut off from their motherland, had their land requisitioned for military bases, are without protection of the Japanese Constitution (or the guarantees of the United States Constitution) and alienated through discrimination and prejudice from the rights that are theirs as human beings."

The letter said that "We protest with profound grief and anger, as believers in the Gospel which enjoins us as men to give life to our fellow men."

SENRIYAMA CHURCH GUTTED BY FIRE

The six-year old sanctuary of the Senriyama Community Church in Senri-New Town, Osaka, burned to the ground early the morning of Sunday, Oct. 26. Losses were estimated at approximately ¥20 million (\$56,000).

Under the leadership of Rev. Mitsukame Kawabe, pastor, the independent church, with a membership of 400 persons and an average Sunday morning attendance of 200, was planning to conduct a hostel for visitors to Expo '70, inasmuch as the church is located near the site of Expo '70. The congregation held their worship services on the lawn in front of the burnt out shell on the Sunday that the early morning fire occurred. Meanwhile, police are investigating the cause of the fire.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES JAPAN ¥700 FOREIGN--SEA MAIL \$2.50 AIR MAIL \$4.00  
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### Calendar of Important Events

Nov. 11-13	Gotemba, Tozanso	North East Asia Association of Theological Schools Study Committee on Curriculum and executive committee meeting. Attended by thirty seminary leaders from Korea, Taiwan, Japan.
19-20	Tokyo, Yamate Church	Special Assembly of Tokyo District of United Church of Christ in Japan, to consider Christian Pavilion and Expo '70 and resignations of Moderator, Vice Moderator and Secretary
19-20	Tokyo, Miyakoso	Study Seminar on Security for district representatives, sponsored by Social Concerns Committee of United Church of Christ in Japan.
25-26	Tokyo, Yamate Church	Extraordinary General Assembly of United Church of Christ in Japan, called upon request of standing committee members, to reconsider Kyodan relationship to controversial Christian Pavilion and Expo '70.
Dec. 9-12	Gotemba, Tozanso	Second Joint Japan-North American Consultation on Peace and Security in Asia, under sponsorship of National Christian Council of Japan and National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
27-29	Okunakayama	5th Annual Caroling Camp for 50 persons, sponsored by Service Dept. of NCC. Sleigh carolling to pioneer farmers and in Morioka. ¥6,500 plus ¥1,000 registration. Limit - 50 persons.
Dec. 30- Jan. 1	Okunakayama	Recreation Leadership Training Course, sponsored by Service Dept. of NCC. Folk-dancing, music, games. ¥6,500 plus ¥1,000 registration. Limit - 50 persons.
Jan. 7-11	Okinawa	Seminar on Okinawa, to be held in Okinawa, with 40 participants from Japan proper, 150 from Okinawa, sponsored by United Church of Christ in Japan.

### MISSION DIVISION DISCUSSES "NATION" AND "MINORITY POWER"

Members of the NCC Division of Mission executive committee, cognizant of the tendency in Japan to identify the nation with the "powers of Satan," heard a visiting practitioner of mission declare that God calls not only individuals and churches but also the nations (all organizations including the state) to serve His purposes.

The lively exchange over the theological significance of the nation took place during a meeting with Dr. Jitsuo Morikawa, American Baptist Convention, Fri., Oct. 31, and will be continued in future division discussions.

Asked about the view of the "people of God" as over against the nation," Dr. Morikawa said that out of his experience--the setting up of the Metropolitan Associates of Philadelphia--it had become clear that God is going to work not only through the Christian community, but through the universal human community which, in the case of Philadelphia, included many Jews and other persons having no relationship with the Christian church but having both ability and concern for changing the living conditions of the people of Philadelphia. (continued on page 5)



LUTHERANS SPONSOR COLOR DOCUMENTARIES

Color documentaries highlighting different individual and group living styles in Japan are being broadcast over some twenty stations through the TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System) under the sponsorship of Lutheran churches in Japan.

Called "Shin Warera Ichizoku," the new series continues the 1968-69 TV programs on Japanese in the world and an interview show that has been well received in Hokkaido.

The series represents a conscious effort on the part of the Lutheran sponsors and TBS, and the Broadcast Programming Center of Japan to raise the cultural level of programming. Masaharu Harada, of the Japan Lutheran Hour, will speak explicitly on the Christian faith in an accompanying "commercial" and offer viewers a basic Bible correspondence course, conducted by some fifteen Lutheran Hour Centers.

Church members will be introduced to the TV plans in regional rallies.

"DEVELOPMENT" GETTING INCREASED ATTENTION

Mr. Graeme Jackson, secretary for Asia, WCC, visited Japan Nov. 3 to 5 on his trip "to hear Asian voices" express their questions and views on "Development" --the term whose meanings and implications are currently being researched on many levels. Mr. Jackson, concerned with finding a "structural solution" to development in Asia, met with various Japanese scholars and church leaders concerned with economics and social development.

Dr. In Ha Lee announces that the Executive Secretariat for the Asia Ecumenical Conference for Development, to be held in Japan next summer, has been opened in the National Catholic Committee headquarters, 10-1 Rokubancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, phone 264-0875. Dr. Lee is general secretary of the Conference.

RUSSIAN PARTY TO VISIT JAPAN

A delegation of seven persons from the Russian Orthodox Church will visit Japan in Nov., returning the visit to Russia of delegates from Japan in December of last year.

Following their stay in Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Hokkaido and Chiba, the Russian group will be entertained at a reception sponsored by the National Christian Council at the Hotel New Ohtani on Monday, Nov. 24. The party is due to arrive Nov. 19.

The delegation includes Metropolitan Nikodim, chairman of the Department of External Church Affairs of the Moscow Patriarchate, Bishop Filoret, president of the Moscow Seminary and vice-chairman of the Department of External Church Affairs, Aleksei Sergeevich Buevski, Department Secretary, Deacon Bogdan, and Brothers Bakharovich and Mikhailovich.

KYODAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SAYS "NO" TO GAMBLING FUNDS

Advised that bicycle race gambling funds are the only local government source of assistance for construction of a new nursing home for the elderly in Hiroshima, the standing committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan, voted, at its Oct. 13 meeting, not to apply for such help at this time.



Although social work specialists, used to depending on gambling funds for budgets for new construction, expressed doubt that without such help it would be possible to reach the ¥86 million goal for land, building and equipment, the standing committee supported Tamotsu Hasegawa, president of the Kyodan's laymen's organization, in his concern over gambling as a source of funds. The committee voted not to apply for such help at this time and to continue to encourage and stimulate individual and church gifts for Sei Rei En, the Hiroshima memorial home

#### KYODAN PASTORS AND LAYMEN ORGANIZE "EVANGELICAL MISSION ASSOCIATION"

A group of 104 United Church of Christ in Japan pastors and laymen met in Tokyo Monday, Oct. 27 and organized the Fukuin Senkyo Kai (Evangelical Mission Association) for the purpose of "working together to make the Kyodan a body which stands on evangelical principles." The Association adopted a Constitution elected officers and reported a total membership of 165 from all over Japan, including 61 laymen. Rev. Ken Muto, Hongo Chuo Church, moderator of the Kyodan from 1954-58, was elected chairman, Rev. Masanao Fujita, Oishikawa Hakusan Church secretary.

Rev. Masakatsu Fukamachi of Shizuoka led worship; Tamotsu Hasegawa, president of the Kyodan laymen's organization, and Prof. Kazo Kitamori of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, spoke on the present situation in the Kyodan, including the events of Sept. 1 and theological considerations. Prof. Kitamori emphasized that, while participation in Expo '70 could be eliminated, the Confession of Faith and the assembly system are essentials that the Kyodan must not give up.

#### SEMINARY INTERIM REPORT by Takeo Mori and Toshihiko Yazawa. TUTS students

Eighteen candidates for the master's degree at the Kyodan's Tokyo Union Theological Seminary turned in master's theses Nov. 1, in spite of the fact that no classes have met yet in the fall semester, scheduled to begin Oct. 1. Another seventeen members of the class, however, did not turn in papers, insisting that their classmates were wrong in compromising with the school while the Oiso "Declaration" and Expo '70 issues remain unresolved.

Meanwhile, representatives of the faculty and of the Student Self-Governing Body continue to meet to try to work out ground rules for an All-School Discussion originally scheduled for Sept. 30. The core numbers approximately 30 students but has been successful in enlisting wider support for some of its actions, such as rejection of the faculty's Oiso "Declaration," drawn up by the faculty at a retreat at Oiso in September and condemning the "violent actions of student and the irresponsibility of pastors" in the agitated 20-hour meeting with the Kyodan's standing committee Sept. 1.

In the interim, some students have begun to conduct student-taught classes or called in outside speakers. Approximately seventy-five students have not yet committed themselves to any one position. Another group of twenty-five students, calling themselves the "Christian ethics group," oppose the Student Self-governing Body line and are drawing up a theological basis for their position, which they feel activists neglect to do.

Along with the Oiso statement, the Christian Pavilion and Expo '70, described as a "Festival of Baal," have become a focus of attacks with the demand that the Kyodan refuse to participate. There is criticism that faculty members are not "facing the real situation in the world around them."

Faculty members, admitting that their individual views vary with regard to the Christian Pavilion at Expo '70 and its meaning for mission in Japan, criticize the following points in the radical students' position: (continued on page 5)



SEMINARY INTERIM REPORT (continued from page 4)

- absolutizing the Expo '70 problem and the evils associated with it to such an extent that a for-or-against attitude towards it is considered as a "criterion" of the true believer;
- the implication in the above position of "justification by works" rather than "justification by faith";
- the tendency among those politically radical Christians, whose actions and attitudes were evident in, for example, the Sept. 1-2 forum, to make of Jesus Christ a Gewalt Jesus--a moral teacher who used violence to enforce his ethical teachings--rather than the center of faith and confession. The ultimate point of Biblical religion is its concern with "sin" and not just social "evils", it pronounces redemption from sin, not just social reform.

Meanwhile, the Evangelical Lutheran Church announces that of the nine students who protested church procedures last spring, five took the examinations for ordination on Oct. 1 and have been assigned to churches, the other four have apparently dropped out.

DIVISION OF MISSION (continued from page 2)

The same night Dr. Morikawa, who introduced himself as a product of Japanese, Canadian and American cultures and of Buddhist and Christian religious backgrounds, met with the NCC Division of Mission sub-committee on Minority Problems. The committee, which elected Rev. Tomomi Kimura of the Kyodan as chairman to succeed the late Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, was extremely interested in Dr. Morikawa's explanation that, while the Christian Gospel affirms integration, it appears that a truly integrated American culture may be achieved only through experiencing "the cross of separatism." Dr. Morikawa, who said his own social mobility had come about through "submissiveness," recognized that this is not the philosophy of Black Power forces. He said that his message to Japanese-Americans is to be concerned not alone about their own social mobility but to but to identify with the sufferings of other people who have not yet achieved a status commensurate with full human dignity.

Asked about resources of power available to minority groups in Japan, comparable with the Black Power movement in the United States, Dr. Morikawa granted that, while they do not represent the block of purchasing and voting power that Blacks in American do, they can appeal to the conscience of the world in terms of social justice.

Dr. Morikawa cited as a great contribution of the Blacks to the American society, the repudiation of the work ethic of middle-class culture and the lifting up of joy, dance and song.

WCC LOCKING INTO FUTUROLOGY

David Gill, secretary, Department on Church and Society of the World Council of Churches, visited Japan Nov. 5-12 in connection with his Asia-wide study trip on the department's new theme: "The Future of Man and Society in a World of Science-based Technology." The purpose of the visit was to talk with persons who have a perspective on future society, particularly from the view point of international politics or technology, as a part of exploring what new ethical and theological questions the explosion of knowledge and skills will set off.



HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS

compiled by Ichiji Yokota

JAPAN BRACES FOR PRIME MINISTER SATO'S DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S. NOV. 17.  
Sato will attempt to go "over the heads" of labor and student demonstrators by helicoptering to Haneda Airport to depart for his conference with U.S. President Nixon on Okinawa.

FAIR TRADE COMMISSION HAS CONSENTED TO YAWATA-FUJI STEEL COMPANIES' merger. Companies are required to reduce shares of the market in four product lines before forming Shin Nihon Steel Corp. Modern economists opposed original merger plan and recommended changes, their greatest concern being competition under a system of oligopoly. The FTC's "consent decision" implied that competition can exist even within oligopoly. The new firm, to be formed March 31, 1970, will have a capitalization of ¥229,360 million (\$637 million) compared with the ¥187,500 million capitalization of the present private giant, Tokyo Electric Power Co.

A UNIVERSITY OF THE AIR IS BEING PROJECTED BY A MINISTRY OF EDUCATION advisory group. Purpose is to give working youth an opportunity to receive higher education at minimum cost, meet rising national demands for university-level education, and extend benefits of higher education throughout the nation. (Some critics fear possible government interference in programming over NHK, semi-government network.)

HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY HAS BANNED USE OF CONTROVERSIAL sweetening agent sodium cyclamate. All soft drinks containing it are to be recalled from the market by end of January 1970.

PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH RISING PRICES, PUBLIC HAZARDS, ETC. in spite of economic prosperity echoes through the 1968 Health and Welfare Ministry White Paper, which emphasizes that to enjoy real prosperity in the '70s, it is necessary to relate results of economic development to the factors that make for happiness in daily life--including the sound growth of children, guaranteed livelihood for the elderly, health protection, etc.

WITH U.S. BASES IN JAPAN BEING REDUCED, MAJOR GENERAL FRANKLIN, chief of staff of U.S. Japan Forces, anticipates dismissal of 2,000 Japanese employees around mid-December. Defense Agency Director General Arita is seeking Cabinet ministers' cooperation to minimize impact of dismissals.

GOVERNMENT HAS SET ¥5 MILLION AS LIMIT FOR AUTOMOBILE insurance compensation for death, with accompanying increase of almost 100% in insurance premiums. Taxi and truck insurance rates will eventually be trebled. (¥5 million is roughly \$14,000.)